



269432

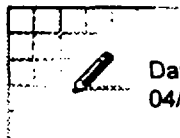
● Elissa Speizman

04/03/2001 07:14 AM

To: Toni Lesser, Susan Pastor, Robert Paulson
Subject: Action - Comments by Bob Paulson

Please brief me on this today. I realize that CIS has a meeting planned for the day - I don't know if it's an all-day meeting. Let me know when you'd be ready. At a minimum, I need to see the referenced article this morning, so that I'll have a better sense of the issue. Thank you.

----- Forwarded by Elissa Speizman/R5/USEPA/US on 04/03/2001 07:09 AM -----



David Ullrich
04/02/2001 09:33 PM

To: Pauline Leboda cc: elissa speizman, shirley dorsey
Subject: Re:

Thank you for raising this to my attention. I will look into this.
Pauline Leboda <leboda_9@hotmail.com> on 03/30/2001 01:10:33 PM

Pauline Leboda <leboda_9@hotmail.com> on 03/30/2001 01:10:33 PM



To: David Ullrich cc: George Czerniak
Subject:

Dear Mr. Ullrich,

I was greatly disappointed with Bob Paulson from your staff when he commented to our local paper in the article I sent you yesterday.

Mr. Paulson represents your office and he certainly is not updated on Republic Steel. According to ATSDR there are still 158 chemicals on the property of concern and the public should not be on the property or inside to swim in the quarries. Yet our children sneak through and swim there in the summer.

I am fighting to make sure where our school is not put and Mr. Paulson assures Elyria that is a safe place.

This trailer park joins Republic Steel is across the street from Aztec, The old Tappan Plant, Woodford Road Quarries and Elyria Foundry. Why would we want our children to go to school there? It is also inside the EJ area.

It is obvious Mr. Paulson does not know a lot about our town, so why would he make such a comment to the press in light of him being an employee for the usepa.

He told me last about two weeks ago that they would be in Elyria in April to tell us how they are going to clean up Chemical Recovery. I asked if they had done a risk assessment or a feasibility study? He replied that they had not. I then ask why would he come in if those studies had not been done. It would take a good six months to a year to do these studies. He had no answer. Of course they will not be in in April. I would just like to know why he told me that.

We are fighting for our children here in the city and fighting where the new school should not be put and Mr. Paulson who represents your office to us

assures us that this site is clean. How could he know that it has never been studied.

Also the last time he was in Elyria in March of 99 to talk with citizens about the site, he put a one day notice in our local paper. He had the notice put in on Wednesday and came in on Thursday. Who could have possibly been notified? This is because they are afraid of the public and their awareness of what is going on in our neighborhoods. That is why I called him to see when they are coming back. I want to make sure that the public is adequately notified if I have to do it myself.

There is going to be a special Sunday on PBS in your area about corporations hiding truths about their companies. It is being put on by Bill Moyers and is a 90 minute documentary. It is awesome and I thought you might enjoy watching it. That is this Sunday coming up.

God Bless and Thanks for your kindness and your last letter.

Pauline Leboda

Get your FREE download of MSN Explorer at <http://explorer.msn.com>

Chronicle-Telegram
Elyria, Ohio
Date: Thu 29-Mar-2001

EHS sites should be rethought, Leboda says

Brandon Wray ELYRIA -- A local environmentalist says the city should rethink two of the possible sites for a new high school because of environmental concerns.

Pauline Leboda, founder of Lorain County Neighbors Protecting Our Environment and a former Republican mayoral candidate, questions whether the two sites -- East Bridge and East Broad streets downtown and the old county fairgrounds site on Third Street -- are appropriate for consideration.

School officials declined comment about specific sites, but Mayor Bill Grace said his understanding is that both sites would be suitable for a new high school.

Environmental officials would not comment on whether the downtown site would be safe. But a U.S. EPA official said he did not think an old industrial dump near the fairgrounds site would rule out building a new school there. In order to obtain state funding to build a school, environmental studies of a proposed site must be conducted. But Leboda doubts whether the sites suggested for a new Elyria High School would pass muster.

Both sites are near properties that were subject to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cleanups in the last 15 years. The property near the downtown site still has not been fully cleaned up, a U.S. EPA official said.

"It's just common sense that you should not build a school there," Leboda said.

Leboda said she wants to make sure a new school is safe in light of a situation in the city of Marion, where federal and state officials have been investigating an unusually high number of leukemia cases among graduates of a high school and middle school. Those schools were built over a World War II Army dump.

Grace has touted the East Bridge/East Broad streets site, where Spitzer Auto World and several other businesses are located, as a way to keep the high school downtown. Only the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks separate the downtown site from the Engelhard Corp., a chemical company. There also is a U.S. EPA "superfund" clean-up area nearby that was once home to the former Chemical Recovery Systems (CRS). There was a massive court-ordered cleanup of the CRS site in the 1980s after environmental officials discovered significant contamination caused by leaky storage containers on the 4-acre property. CRS recycled cleaning solvents for industrial use.

The U.S. EPA found in 1999 that there was still contamination and an additional cleanup was ordered. The carcinogenic pollution that remains does not pose an imminent health threat, but long-term exposure can result in serious health problems, said Gwen Massenburg, who is in charge of the cleanup for U.S. EPA. "There are still a whole lot of chemicals in the land and groundwater," Massenburg said.

The final cleanup should begin in late summer or fall, she said.

Massenburg declined to comment on the prospects of a school being built near the site.

Leboda said she was more concerned with the impact of the "superfund" site, but also had reservations about the operations at Engelhard Corp. But Engelhard runs a clean operation that complies with environmental standards, said company spokesman Andy Kopas, who added that he did not think the company posed any environmental risk to neighboring properties. The plant has been at the location under various names for more than a century, he said.

"There's been somebody around us all of these years," Kopas said.

Engelhard manufactures "pretty innocuous" products such as pigments used to color materials like ceramic tiles and plastics, as well as catalysts that are used in the production of gasoline and petrochemicals, Kopas said.

"It is unfortunate to be viewed as having a negative impact" because of the views expressed by Leboda, said Mark Roberts, technical manager of Engelhard.

The old fairgrounds site on Third Street along the Black River is currently occupied by two mobile home parks near the grounds of the old Republic Steel Quarry that also was the subject of

a large clean-up effort in the late-1980s.

Republic dumped 200,000 gallons of wastewater containing sulfuric acid and dissolved metal oxides into the water-filled quarry daily over a 25-year period, according to U.S. EPA records.

But the site now is considered safe, said **Bob Paulson**, a U.S. EPA spokesman. "There shouldn't be a problem with building a new school nearby," **Paulson** said.

An EPA report on the site states that limited exposure to the quarry site was not dangerous but regular or repeated exposure does pose a serious health threat. Swimming and fishing at the site is prohibited. The city, which now owns the site, keeps the area fenced, according to City Solicitor Terry "Pete" Shilling, who handled the city's negotiations with the EPA.

If any contamination still exists it would probably be in the quarry or on land between the quarry and the LTV Steel plant, which uses part of the area, Shilling said.

The land closest to the fairgrounds likely was not used for much, if any, of **Republic's** operations at the quarry, Shilling said. Shilling said the EPA did not spend much time cleaning up that area.

The agency did not place any use restrictions on the site because the city said it would never be used for residential purposes, according to EPA records.

Grace disputes Laboda's claims that the sites might not be suitable for a school. Grace said he has never heard any information about the sites being excessively contaminated. There are homes, apartments, churches and businesses around both sites, he said.

"It's not like people haven't lived and worked there for decades," Grace said. "If there are environmental issues out there, hopefully people will produce evidence of that." Grace also said the school would probably not be built that close to the Chemical Recovery Systems site or Engelhard.

He said the quarry is just as close to the high school's current location as it is to the fairgrounds site.

Betty Halliburton, spokeswoman for the Elyria Schools, said the district is not commenting on individual sites before its entire site evaluation process is finished, which is expected to be in the next few weeks.

Halliburton said the district knows the state has environmental guidelines and the status of each site will eventually become a factor in site consideration.